

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This responds to the office action mailed on July 15, 2004. Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowance of claims 7, 8, and 12. Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-20 are rejected. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, 13-18 have been amended. Claims 5, 6, 19, and 20 have been cancelled.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 8, and 14 are objected to. Claim 6 has been cancelled and claims 8 and 14 have been amended in a manner consistent with the Examiner's suggestions.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, as being indefinite.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1 and 15 would be allowable if amended to overcome the 112 rejection. Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 13-17 have been amended in a manner consistent with the Examiner's suggestions, have been amended to particularly point out and distinctly claims the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention, or have been cancelled.

Claims 1 and 15 are in condition for allowance. Dependant claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and dependant claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 15.

The 35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejections

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 5, and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,549,916 to Stedlar (Stedlar).

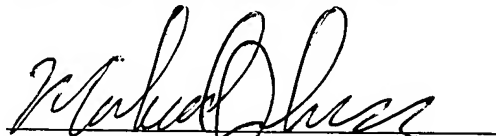
Claim 4 has been amended to incorporate claim 6, which is a more detailed version of claim 5. The Examiner indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejection and incorporating all the limitations of the base claims. Claim 4 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 18 has been amended to incorporate claim 20, which is a more detailed version of claim 19. The Examiner indicated that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejection and incorporating all the limitations of the base claims. Claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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